

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing cookware comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a bonded composite sheet of material having at least one layer of an ~~aluminum or~~ aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum material bonded between layers of stainless steel;
  - (b) forming a cookware vessel of a desired configuration having said ~~aluminum or~~ aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum exposed at least at an edge portion of said formed cookware vessel; and
  - (c) treating at least said exposed edge of ~~aluminum or~~ aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum by a micro arc oxidation process to form an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  coating on at least said exposed edge of ~~aluminum or~~ aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum whereby chemical corrosion/erosion of said exposed edge by caustic cleaning agents is prevented.
2. (Original) Cookware made according to the method of claim 1.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the bonded composite sheet of material includes at least ~~one layer~~ two layers of aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum bonded respectively between layers of stainless steel.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 wherein the method includes the step of masking the stainless steel prior to said treating step.
5. (Withdrawn) Cookware comprising a bonded composite metal sheet including at least one layer of an aluminum material and at least one layer of a stainless steel material wherein an exposed edge of the aluminum material extending around an outer perimeter of the cookware carries an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  coating applied thereto by a micro arc oxidation process.